

money we did. And I can recall being here on the floor and having Democratic friends beating us up, rightfully so, because in 2006 we spent \$160 billion more than we had coming in. We didn't have to do that. We shouldn't have done that.

I would never have dreamed that 5 short years later that with the Democratic majority the spending would have exploded once they had no friction between a Democratic President and a Democratic Congress, and that we would go from the \$160 billion in deficit spending in 2006 that Republicans got beat up for to \$1.6 trillion in deficit spending—10 times more—and people still thinking that's somehow okay.

It wasn't okay for Republicans to overspend by \$160 billion, and it's not okay for this Democratic Senate and President to continue to push to spend \$1.6 trillion more than the \$2.2 trillion we supposedly will have coming in.

Now we're told today we're going to have a vote on a Republican bill. A little surprising to some of us Republicans. We passed a bill, Cut, Cap, and Balance. It wasn't what I wanted. I liked the balanced budget amendment with a percentage of GDP cap on spending to help rein Congress in, and that was negotiable on the percentage. But it also had \$111 billion out of \$1.6 trillion that would have been cut from spending. That just wasn't enough. But the balanced budget amendment, if it had been passed and become part of the law, was enough of a game changer it was worth voting for.

Then the Senate sits back and says, We're not going to go for that. We're not going to pass anything, so pass something else. And now our leadership has heard the call of Leader REID down the hall and is going to bring another bill.

And I know the intentions of both sides of the aisle want the best for the country. I get that. I understand that. We have different ideas on how that can be done. And I know that there are people in my party that want to keep beating up on me because I can't vote for a bill that only cuts \$1 trillion out of \$15 trillion to \$16 trillion that will be deficit spending over the next 10 years. Because it's easy to do the math: We cut \$1 trillion out of \$15 trillion, \$16 trillion over the next 10 years, and if we can keep doing that, and there are no assurances we can, every 10 years cut another trillion, then when I have my 207th birthday, we can celebrate that year a balanced budget, and we will have only added \$120 trillion to the \$14.3 trillion deficit now. I can't vote for that.

Politically we're told, this is the political thing to do. You've got to do the political thing. If you don't vote for the Boehner bill, you're voting for Obama. That's not true. If the Senate will pass anything—anything—then we could drive this to a conference committee and get a compromise. The Senate has to pass something.

Well, think about this scenario very quickly: We pass this, say, hypothetically. The Senate says, Oh, well, you pushed us to the edge of the cliff; we didn't want to vote for this. Then they pass it just like we did, and the President says, I was going to veto but we're on the edge of the cliff. A 100 percent Republican bill; they wouldn't compromise. And now they say, Well, gee, Republicans inherited the economy.

It's not right practically; it's not right politically. Let's do the right thing for America.

#### THE SOMALIA CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the Horn of Africa is currently suffering from the worst drought in 60 years, one of the worst humanitarian crises in recent memory. For both moral and national security reasons, it demands a strong, clear, sustained response from this institution.

Last week, famine was declared in parts of southern Somalia. This means acute malnutrition rates among children now exceed 30 percent, that more than two people per 10,000 die every day, and that people are not able to access food or other basic necessities.

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One out of every five households in famine-declared areas have no food at all. The malnutrition rates in Somalia are currently the highest in the world. In the last few months, tens of thousands of Somalis, the majority of them children, have died as a result of causes related to malnutrition. In some of the most affected areas, an estimated 310,000 children are acutely malnourished.

The worst may be yet to come. Eight million people are in need of assistance in Ethiopia and Kenya. Unless the global community and humanitarian agencies intervene now, it's predicted that the entire south of Somalia will face famine within the next 2 months.

Nearly a thousand people are arriving daily at overcrowded refugee camps in Kenya and Ethiopia. Many have journeyed for weeks to get there. According to Josette Sheeran, executive director of the U.N. World Food Program, the roads to these camps "are becoming roads of death. Over half the women I talked to had to leave children to die or had children die. In the Horn of Africa, we could lose a generation." And the troubles do not end there. Sexual violence against women in these already overcrowded refugee camps is on the rise.

This crisis didn't happen overnight. The eastern Horn of Africa is prone to chronic food insecurity. What is more, below-average rainfall in late 2010 and the spring of 2011 anticipated drought conditions, which have been dramati-

cally worsened by the fact Somalia has not had a central government since 1991. Drought conditions have also progressively worsened throughout the year in Ethiopia and Kenya.

To address the ongoing crisis, Secretary Clinton recently announced that the United States would provide another \$28 million in aid for people in Somalia and for Somali refugees in Kenya, in addition to the over \$431 million in food and nonfood emergency assistance already provided for the region this year.

It's a good start. But we need to ensure that the appropriate U.S. funds are available to address this crisis this year and that Congress provides enough funding to maintain our ability to really address these crises. It is a matter of life and death for the most vulnerable people in the world.

We do this not just out of moral responsibility, although that should be compelling enough. It is also because our national security interests need to be represented to maintain the capability to combat food insecurity in the Horn of Africa and other critical regions around the world. It's about our national security. Anti-hunger programs can help this crisis and strengthen international diplomacy. Yet, unfortunately, we have seen the money for international food aid cut back severely. When we fight hunger and poverty, we undercut the recruiting base of those who would threaten us—the terrorists who would threaten us.

Let me conclude by saying we know what we can do to help. We have the ability to alleviate hunger and suffering of millions in the Horn of Africa. We know that doing so is the right thing to do. It makes us safer in the long run. We lack the political will to do the right thing. I urge my colleagues, support funding for these critical programs in the coming budget for the millions of suffering in Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia, for the humanitarian crisis of the future, for the continued safety and the security of the United States.

#### BROWN CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH 145TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL. I rise today to recognize the 145th anniversary of Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Selma, Alabama. For 145 years, Brown Chapel has been a pillar in the Selma community, and she stands today as a powerful symbol of the civil rights movement for the major role that this church played in the events that led to the adoption of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

One hundred forty-five years ago, just 2 years after the Emancipation Proclamation, freed slaves began worshipping, first in private homes, and